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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
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GLOBAL HARMONIZATION OF SYSTEMS OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Physical hazards

Classification of aerosol dispensers

Transmitted by the Expert from Norway

Introduction/Justification

In principle an aerosol dispenser is a receptacle containing substances, which may posses some hazardous characteristics. Accordingly, the presence of such characteristics should be communicated in the classification and labelling of the aerosol dispenser.

The flammability risk of an aerosol dispenser is not recognised by the present special provision 63, which states that there must be more than 45 % by mass or more than 250 g flammable components for assignment to Division 2.1. (This criteria originally comes from an EC directive, from which it was excluded by a revision in 1994). Performance tests for detection of the flammability risk of aerosol dispensers, e.g. as in the ICAO Technical Instructions, does not recognise a flammable propellant gas.

Classification of aerosol dispensers with a flammable propellant gas as flammable, is in our opinion very important and has been required in Norway for consumer protection since 1982. Proper transport classification according to the contents of the aerosol dispenser, is also important for the safe storage and handling.

Proposal

It is proposed to amend the existing special provision 63 as follows:

The division of Class 2 and the subsidiary risks depend on the nature of the contents of the aerosol or small receptacle. The Division 2.1 applies if:

- the propellant gas is a flammable gas or gas mixture, or
- the liquid phase is a substance or mixture with a flash point of 60 °C or less, or
- the discharged contents are defined as flammable in the performance test described in ICAO Technical Instructions.

When assigning primary and subsidiary risks, Division 2.3 takes precedence over Division 2.1, and Division 2.1 takes precedence over Division 2.2. Other dangerous properties are assigned as subsidiary risks according to the Class or Division of the liquid or solid phase.